

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 28.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1926.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. RETURN TO WRIT (EDEN-MONARO DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that he had that day received a Return to the Writ which he had issued on the 25th January last, for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Eden-Monaro, in the State of New South Wales, in the place of the Honorable Sir Austin Chapman, deceased, and that by the indorsement on the Writ it appeared that John Arthur Perkins had been elected in pursuance of the said Writ.
3. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,

Governor-General.

Message No. 13.

A Bill intituled "*Crimes Act 1926*," as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of his Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Government House,
Melbourne, 16th March, 1926.

4. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS TO-MORROW.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.
Mr. Forde addressing the House—
Closure.—Mr. Bruce moved, That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 33.

Noes, 20.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Marr
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Nott
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Parsons
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Grosvenor Francis	Mr. Pratten
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gibson	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Gullett	Mr. Stewart
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Watt
Sir Elliot Johnson	
Mr. Latham	
Mr. Lister	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Mann	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Manning	Mr. Mackay

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Lacey	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Lambert	Mr. West
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Yates
Mr. Mahony	
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Forde

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

17th March, 1926.

And the question being accordingly put—That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow—

The House divided—

Ayes, 35.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Marr
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Nott
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Parsons
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Grosvenor Francis	Mr. Pratten
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gibson	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Gullett	Mr. Stewart
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Jackson	Mr. William Watson
Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Watt
Mr. Killen	
Mr. Latham	
Mr. Lister	
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Mann	Mr. Manning

Tellers :

Noes, 19.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Forde	Mr. West
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lacey	
Mr. Lambert	
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Mathews	
Mr. McGrath	

Tellers :

Mr. Fenton
Mr. Watkins

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

5. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired at Balaklava, South Australia—For Postal purposes.
Railways Act—By-law No. 38.
Treaty of Peace (Germany) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1926, No. 24.

6. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion No. 1 be postponed until after the Orders of the Day.

7. POWER ALCOHOL BOUNTY BILL (1926).—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2 debated and postponed.

Clause 3 debated and agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 debated and agreed to.

Clause 6 debated—

Mr. Manning moved, as an amendment, That the words “ or growing ” be inserted after the word “ grown ” (line 3).

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Manning moved, as an amendment, That the following be added to the clause :—“ ; or (b) Prickly pear.”

Chairman's Ruling.—The Chairman ruled the amendment out of order on the ground that it would alter the destination of the vote.

Dissent from Chairman's Ruling.—Mr. Manning, having handed in, in writing, an objection to the Ruling of the Chairman, moved, That the Ruling be dissented from.

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Manning moved, as an amendment, That the words “ cultivated starch-bearing ” (lines 4 and 5) be omitted.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 16 agreed to.

Postponed clause 2 further debated and agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

17th March, 1926.

8. ELECTORAL ACT—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave—

- (1) That, with reference to the Resolution agreed to by this House on the 25th ultimo, the following Members be appointed to serve on the Joint Select Committee to inquire into and report upon certain matters connected with the Electoral Law :—Mr. Bowden, Mr. Manning, Mr. Edward Riley, and Mr. Thompson (mover of the original resolution).
- (2) That two Members be the quorum of Members of the House of Representatives present to constitute a sitting of such Committee.
- (3) That this House agrees to the time and place proposed by the Senate for the first meeting of the Committee.
- (4) That the foregoing Resolutions be communicated to the Senate by Message.

Question—put and passed.

9. BUSH FIRES RELIEF FUND—HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S DONATION.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) announced to the House that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following cablegram :—

His Excellency the Governor-General, Government House, Melbourne, Australia.

The King who read with much concern the accounts of the damage done by the bush fires in Australia is glad to hear that a fund is being raised in aid of those who lost their homes. I am to ask Your Excellency to inform the organizers of the fund that His Majesty wishes to give a donation of a hundred pounds, which will be paid to you by Coutts and Co., through Bank of Australasia.—Ponsonby.

Mr. Bruce also announced that His Excellency the Governor-General had forwarded the following reply :—

I shall be glad if you will bring under His Majesty's notice on behalf of the Government and people of Australia, our deep appreciation of his practical sympathy in connexion with the recent disastrous bush fires. The amount forwarded is being placed at the disposal of the organizers of the fund as requested. The nation's burden of sorrow has been considerably lightened by the knowledge that we have the sympathy of Our Sovereign and of all His loyal subjects throughout the Empire.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eighteen minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Aubrey Abbott, Mr. Bell, Mr. Corser, Mr. Josiah Francis, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Roland Green, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hurry, Mr. Ley, Mr. Makin, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Rodgers.

WALTER A. GALE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.